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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee (Part IX)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Rae Kwon CHUNG (Republic of Korea)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 97 (see A/52/628, para. 2). Action was taken on sub-item (h) at the 43rd and 50th meetings, on 19 November and 9 December 1997. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/52/SR.43 and 50).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/52/L.31 AND A/C.2/52/L.49

2. At the 43rd meeting, on 19 November, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Developing human resources for development" (A/C.2/52/L.31), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming its resolutions 50/105 of 20 December 1995, 48/205 of 21 December 1993, 48/143 of 17 December 1991 and 45/191 of 21 December 1990 as well as the relevant sections of the Agenda for Development,[1]

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* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/52/628 and addenda.

[1] See A/51/45.

*Recognizing that people are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development, that the development of human resources is an essential component in the achievement of sustainable development and that a focus on human resources development will ultimately strengthen capabilities and will equip people with the competencies to function effectively,

*Recognizing also that there is a need to integrate human resources development into comprehensive strategies that mainstream a gender perspective, taking into account the needs of all people, in particular, the needs of women,

*Stressing that Governments have the primary responsibility for defining and implementing appropriate policies for human resources development and that there is the need for adequate resources from the international community to enhance the capacity of the Governments of developing countries to promote human resources development in pursuit of their national programmes, plans and strategies for development,

*Stressing also that there is a need for a supportive and favourable international economic environment that will enhance human resources development in developing countries and promote sustained economic growth and sustainable development,

*Recognizing that, while economic reforms and structural adjustment programmes are intended to promote sustained economic growth and sustainable development, elements of such programmes may have an adverse impact on human resources development and also that there is a need to take action, in the formulation of these programmes, to mitigate any negative effects,

*Recognizing also the vital role of South-South cooperation in supporting national efforts for human resources development,

*Emphasizing the continued need for coordination and integration among the organs and organizations of the United Nations system in assisting developing countries to foster the development of their human resources, especially that of the least developed and most vulnerable, and for the United Nations to continue to give priority to human resources development in developing countries,

*Recognizing the importance accorded to the human component of development in the declarations and programmes of action adopted at all the major United Nations conferences and summits since 1990,

*1. Takes note of the Secretary-General's note[2] on the implementation of resolution 50/105;

*2. Emphasizes that, in the development of human resources, an overall, well conceived and integrated approach which mainstreams a gender

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[2] A/52/540.

perspective and takes into account the needs of all people should be adopted, incorporating such vital areas as population, health, nutrition, water, sanitation, housing, communications, education and training, and science and technology, and taking into account the need to create more opportunities for employment, in an environment that guarantees political freedom, popular participation, respect for human rights, justice and equity, all of which are essential for enhancing human capacity to meet the challenge of development;

"3. Encourages all countries to apply the requisite policies to ensure the development of their human resources, through education and training and by seeking, where possible, to increase receptivity to technological innovations, including those in the field of information and communication technologies;

"4. Emphasizes the need to ensure the full participation of women in the formulation and implementation of national policies to promote human resources development;

"5. Acknowledges the efforts of developing countries in promoting human resources development and, in this regard, emphasizes the need for international cooperation to advance human resources development and the need for concerted efforts to support the efforts of developing countries, especially in Africa, the least developed countries and small island developing States, to develop their human resources;

"6. Emphasizes that human resources development and institution-building can be promoted through South-South cooperation, and calls upon countries to take action in this regard;

"7. Calls upon international financial institutions and other international organizations to support the objectives of human resources development and to integrate them into their policies, programmes and operations;

"8. Emphasizes that structural adjustment programmes should include and strengthen social development goals which include human resources development and also emphasizes that Governments and relevant multilateral financial institutions should develop policies to reduce the negative effects of those programmes and to improve their positive impact, bearing in mind that human resources development associated with economic restructuring should be considered complementary strategies;

"9. Calls upon the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to ensure the coordination of activities in support of national and regional action in the area of human resources development and capacity-building and to strengthen the human resources development aspect of their development activities;

"10. Requests the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session an assessment of the effectiveness of the contribution of operational activities to human

resource development and requests further that the report include a brief review of the experience of the United Nations system in addressing the issue of human resources development, with a view to identifying possible new approaches in order to enhance the delivery capacity of the United Nations system;

"11. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development and international economic cooperation', the sub-item entitled 'Human resources development'."

3. At the 50th meeting, on 9 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Hans-Peter Glanzer (Austria), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Developing human resources for development" (A/C.2/52/L.49) submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.31. In introducing the draft resolution, the Vice-Chairman proposed the deletion of the square brackets around the phrase "sustained economic growth and sustainable development" in the fifth preambular paragraph.

4. Statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America and the United Republic of Tanzania (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) (see A/C.2/52/SR.50). The representative of the United States requested a recorded vote on the draft resolution.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.49 by a recorded vote of 154 to 2 (see para. 7). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South

Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: None.

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Luxembourg (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), the Russian Federation, Jamaica, Australia, China and the United Republic of Tanzania (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77) (see A/C.2/52/SR.50).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Developing human resources for development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 50/105 of 20 December 1995, 48/205 of 21 December 1993, 48/143 of 17 December 1991 and 45/191 of 21 December 1990 as well as the relevant sections of the Agenda for Development,[1]

Recognizing that people are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development and that the development of human resources is an essential component in the achievement of sustainable development and stressing that effective human resources development should strengthen people's capabilities and competencies and enlarge the choices available to them in developing their lives and fulfilling their aspirations so as to reach total human development,

Recognizing also that there is a need to integrate human resources development into comprehensive strategies that mainstream a gender perspective, taking into account the needs of all people, in particular, the needs of women and the girl child,

Stressing that Governments have the primary responsibility for defining and implementing appropriate policies for human resources development and that there is a need for continued support from the international community to complement

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[1] Resolution 51/240, annex.

the efforts to developing Governments to promote human resource development in pursuit of their national programmes, plans and strategies for development,

Stressing also that there is a need for a supportive and favourable national and international economic environment that will enhance human resources development in developing countries and promote sustained economic growth and sustainable development,

Recognizing that economic reforms and structural adjustment programmes are aimed at benefiting those countries which undertake them but that these programmes can also affect the capacity of Governments to implement appropriate policies that promote human resources development, and that there is a need, in the formulation of these programmes, to continue to integrate measures that mitigate such an effect,

Recognizing also the vital role of South-South cooperation in supporting national efforts at human resources development,

Emphasizing the continued need for coordination and integration among the organs and organizations of the United Nations system in assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, to foster the development of their human resources, especially those of the most vulnerable, and for the United Nations to continue to give priority to human resources development in developing countries,

Recognizing the importance accorded to the human component of development in the declarations and programmes of action adopted at all the major United Nations conferences and summits since 1990,

1. Takes note of the note by the Secretary-General on developing human resources for development;[4]

2. Emphasizes that, in the development of human resources, an overall, well conceived and integrated approach which mainstreams a gender perspective and takes into account the needs of all people should be adopted, incorporating such vital areas as population, health, nutrition, water, sanitation, housing, communications, education and training, and science and technology, as well as taking into account the need to create more opportunities for employment, in an environment that guarantees political freedom, popular participation, respect for human rights, justice and equity, all of which are essential for enhancing human capacity to meet the challenge of development;

3. Encourages all countries to apply the requisite policies to ensure the development of their human resources, through education and training and by seeking, where possible, to increase receptivity to technological innovations, including those in the field of information technology;

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[4] A/52/540.

4. Emphasizes the need to ensure the full participation of women in the formulation and implementation of national policies to promote human resources development;

5. Acknowledges the efforts of developing countries in promoting human resources development and, in this regard, emphasizes the need for international cooperation to advance human resources development and the need for concerted efforts to support the efforts of developing countries, especially in Africa and the least developed countries to develop their human resources;

6. Encourages all countries to accord priority, in particular in national budgets, to human resources development in the context of the adoption of economic and social policies;

7. Emphasizes also that human resources development and institution-building can be promoted through South-South cooperation and calls upon countries to take action in this regard;

8. Invites international organizations, including other international financial institutions, to continue to give priority to supporting the objectives of human resources development and to integrating them into their policies, programmes and operations;

9. Emphasizes that structural adjustment programmes should support social development goals, in particular the eradication of poverty, the promotion of full and productive employment, and the enhancement of social integration with due regard to the implementation of sound economic policies;

10. Calls upon the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in accordance with their mandates, work programmes and priorities, to coordinate effectively their activities in support of national and regional action in the area of human resources development and capacity-building, both among themselves and with other development partners, and to strengthen the impact of their development activities on human resources development;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session an assessment of the effectiveness of the contribution made by the United Nations system to advance human resources development through its operational activities, and make recommendations to further enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of its contribution to human resources development, including the identification of possible new approaches that will enhance their impact;

12. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development and international economic cooperation", the sub-item entitled "Human resources development".